



PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No: 15568.3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

David Watling et al.

Serial No.: 10/088,595

Confirmation No.: 6862

Filed: June 11, 2002

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR VAPOUR
PHASE STERILISATION

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) Art Unit
) 1744

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please find, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), the enclosed Form PTO-1449 which contains a list of all patents, publications, or other items that have come to the attention of one or more of the individuals designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). While no representation is made that these references may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, the enclosed listed references are disclosed so as to fully comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Moreover, while no representation is made that a specific search of office files or patent office records has been conducted or that no better art exists, the undersigned attorney of record believes that the enclosed art is the closest to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) of which the undersigned is presently aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) has been knowingly withheld.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, a copy of each of the listed references or relevant portion thereof is also enclosed.

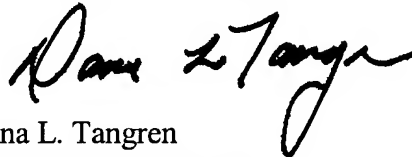
Statement of Relevance of References Listed
Unaccompanied by English Translation
Under 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3)

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3), the following concise explanation of the relevance of each listed reference that is not in the English language and unaccompanied by a translation into English is provided.

EP Application No. EP 0 808 631 A1 discloses a unit for monitoring sterilization chamber internal conditions. Externally, its data recording unit is connected to a separate measuring device in the chamber. This device comprises a casing with a measuring unit having an access to the chamber. It measures a parameter indicative of sterilization conditions, especially relative humidity. A power supply unit, controller, and data storage unit are included. The casing has an output connecting to the recorder. The sensor in the measurement unit measures relative humidity. This unit monitors sterilization accurately and reliably. It avoids the deficiencies of devices measuring pressure and temperature, which merely detect the presence of water. The new unit measures the actual relative humidity ensuring that all parts of the sterilization chamber achieve the required sterilization conditions.

Dated this 29th day of August 2002.

Respectfully submitted,



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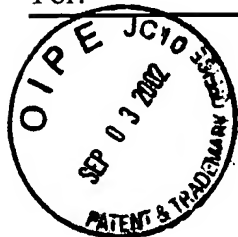
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For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR VAPOUR PHASE STERILISATION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATIONS MADE BY APPLICANTU.S. Patent Documents

<u>Examiner Initial*</u>	<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
____ 1	4,512,951	04/23/1985	Koubek
____ 2	4,843,867	07/04/1989	Cummings
____ 3	4,898,713	02/06/1990	Picard
____ 4	4,992,247	02/12/1991	Foti
____ 5	5,173,258	12/22/1992	Childers
____ 6	5,785,934	07/28/1998	Jacobs et al.
____ 7	5,906,794	05/25/1999	Childers

Foreign Patent Documents

<u>Examiner Initial*</u>	<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Country or Patent Office</u>	<u>Translation</u>
____ 8	EP 0 486 623 B1	01/08/1997	EPO	N/A
____ 9	EP 0 774 263 A1	05/21/1997	EPO	N/A
____ 10	EP 0 808 631 A1	11/26/1997	EPO	Abstract
____ 11	GB 2 217 619 A	11/01/1989	United Kingdom	N/A
____ 12	GB 2 308 066 A	06/18/1997	United Kingdom	N/A

Examiner:

Date Considered:

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609, draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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Applicant: David Watling et al.
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 For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR VAPOUR PHASE STERILISATION



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Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Publication Date	Country of Patent Office	Registration
_____ 13	WO 89/06140	07/13/1989	PCT	N/A
_____ 14	WO 91/05573	05/02/1991	PCT	N/A
_____ 15	WO 97/47331	12/18/1997	PCT	N/A
_____ 16	WO 98/57673	12/23/1998	PCT	N/A
_____ 17	WO 00/38745	07/06/2000	PCT	N/A

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Other Documents

(including author, title, pertinent pages, etc.)

Examiner
Initial*

- _____ 18 P. Swartling et al., *The Sterilizing Effect Against Bacillus subtilis Spores of Hydrogen Peroxide at Different Temperatures and Concentrations*, J. Dairy Res. (1968), 35, 423, pp. 423-428.
- _____ 19 Walter C. Schumb et al, *Hydrogen Peroxide*, Reinhold Publishing Corporation, Chapter 8, pp. 447-448 (1968).

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Date Considered:

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References Cited by Applicants

While the filing of Information Disclosure Statements is voluntary, the procedure is governed by the guidelines of Section 609 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. To be considered a proper Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449 shall be accompanied by a copy of each listed patent or publication or other item of information and a translation of the pertinent portions of foreign documents (if an existing translation is readily available to the applicant), an explanation of relevance of each reference not in the English language, and should be submitted in a timely manner as set out in MPEP Sec. 609.

Examiners will consider all citations submitted in conformance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and MPEP Sec. 609 and place their initials adjacent the citations in the spaces provided on this form. Examiners will also initial citations not in conformance with the guidelines which may have been considered. A reference may be considered by the Examiner for any reason whether or not the citation is in full conformance with the guidelines. A line will be drawn through a citation if it is not in conformance with the guidelines AND has not been considered. A copy of the submitted form, as reviewed by the Examiner, will be returned to the applicant with the next communication. The original of the form will be entered into the application file.

Each citation initialed by the Examiner will be printed on the issued patent in the same manner as references cited by the Examiner on Form PTO-892.

The reference designations "A1," "A2," etc. (referring to Applicant's reference 1, Applicant's reference 2, etc.) will be used by the Examiner in the same manner as Examiner's reference designations "A," "B," "C," etc. on Office Action Form PTO-1142.

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